

2009 NJ EQIP Ranking Criteria for Historically Underserved Producers

	Points
1. Is the average annual gross farm sales \$75,000 or less for the last three years?	12
2. Does the farm total less than 50 acres of specialty/vegetable crops/pasture OR less than 200 acres of any other crops?	15
3. Is the producer a member of a socially disadvantaged group?	8
4. Is the IRS Schedule F net income more than 75% of the total net household income? (For the previous tax year)	18
5. For applicants who currently meet the Beginning Farmer definition, was a Farm Operating Loan (private or government) obtained to support the beginning farm operation?	7
6. Does the rented acreage total more than 50% of the total production acreage of the farm?	11
Answer EITHER 7a or 7b, but not both:	
7a. Is any part of the land under contract permanently deed restricted for agriculture through the NJ Farmland Preservation Program or any other state/local/private program?	7
7b. Is the entire land area under contract permanently deed restricted for agriculture through the NJ Farmland Preservation Program or any other state/local/private program?	13
8. Has the applicant completed all previous or current Farm Bill contract items as originally scheduled (at the time of obligation); or has the applicant not had any contracts at all?	6
9. Is the land under contract located in a watershed impaired by a pollutant that may have an agricultural origin as determined by NJDEP?	28
10. Do the practice(s) contracted supplement practices or systems previously implemented under the same Conservation Plan? (no plan modification needed except for planned mo/yr)	15
11. Is the land under contract located in: NJ Highlands Region (designated Planning Area or Preservation Area); or NJ Pinelands Preservation Area, Agricultural Production Area, or Special Agricultural Production Area; or, for forestry operations only, the NJ Pinelands Forest Area?	26
12. Has the applicant completed all previous Farm Bill contracts without any terminations or cancellations; or not had any contracts at all?	21
13. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds with total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) where available, groundwater contamination or point sources such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations?	25
14. Will the treatment you intend to implement for water conservation or irrigation efficiency using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in water use?	11
15. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?	8
16. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?	17
17. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?	9
18. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable benefits to residue management, nutrient management, air quality management, invasive species management, pollinator habitat, and animal carcass management technology or pest management?	7
19. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in energy conservation benefits?	13